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AUTHOR	Glyer-Culver, Betty
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ABSTRACT

This document provides an annual summary of the Los Rios Community College District (LRCCD) and its colleges. Data on student demographics and enrollment trends are highlighted, including: (1) district enrollment for spring 2000 showed an increase of 3.4%, in addition to an increase of 11.0% in spring 1999; (2) district weekly student contract hours increased by 4.1% due to students enrolling in slightly heavier unit loads; (3) district ethnic minority enrollment for spring 2000 is 40.1% (9.8% African American, 16.3% Asian, 12.0% Latino, and 2.0% Native American); (4) little change occurred in the proportions of men and women enrolled (virtually no change from 56.9% female and 43.1% male in 1996 to 57.2% female and 42.8% male in 2000); (5) proportions of students age 20 and under increased by 4.7%, and a steady increase from 19.1% in spring 1996 to 21.5% in spring 2000 for students over the age of 40 can be seen; (6) the amount of students attending day courses remained unchanged, while students attending in the evening decreased by 5.0% and those attending both day and evening rose by 5.1%; and (7) average student unit load remained unchanged from 1996 to 2000. (CJW)

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Los Rios Community College District
Office of Institutional Research

Spring 2000 Student Profile

Based upon First Census Data

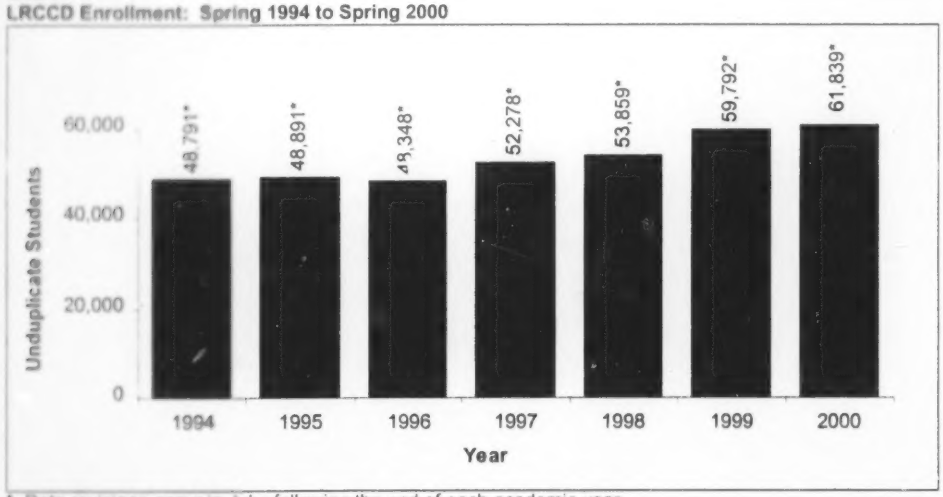
May 2000

This is the third in a series of Spring Profiles based upon the official Spring First Census. These annual summaries provide the Los Rios Community College District (LRCCD) and its colleges--American River College (ARC), Cosumnes River College (CRC) and Sacramento City College (SCC)--with data on student demographics and enrollment trends--important information for successful planning to meet the needs of our changing student clientele. The Spring 2000 Student Profile includes a brief analysis of the separate demographic data for the Folsom Lake and El Dorado Centers which are part of Cosumnes River College. This report presents student enrollment data and Weekly Student Contact Hours (WSCH) based on the official Spring First Census reports that are issued at the beginning of the fourth week of classes. This Spring Profile is also based upon demographic data generated from the official Spring Fourth Week Census research database. Data includes all students enrolled in *any* course as of first census, regardless of when those courses are actually scheduled to start. Analysis of student demography is based upon data that *excludes* those students who have dropped their courses by first census.

District Enrollment

Chart 1 presents spring district enrollment data for the Los Rios Community College District. Over the past four years, the enrollment pattern tends to reflect the growing population trends. After a slight decline in district enrollment from Spring 1995 to Spring 1996 (by 1.1%), enrollment began to increase in Spring 1997 and has continued to increase each year since. Enrollment increased by 3.4% in Spring 2000 after an 11.0% increase in Spring 1999.

Chart 1
LRCCD Enrollment: Spring 1994 to Spring 2000



* Data revisions occur in July, following the end of each academic year.

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Enrollment increased at each of the Los Rios colleges in Spring 2000: by 0.9% at ARC (to 26,563), by 4.0% at CRC (to 9,416, noting that Folsom Lake and El Dorado enrollment figures are now reported separately), by 3.4% at SCC (to 19,100) and by 13.6% (to 6,760) at the Folsom Lake and El Dorado Centers.

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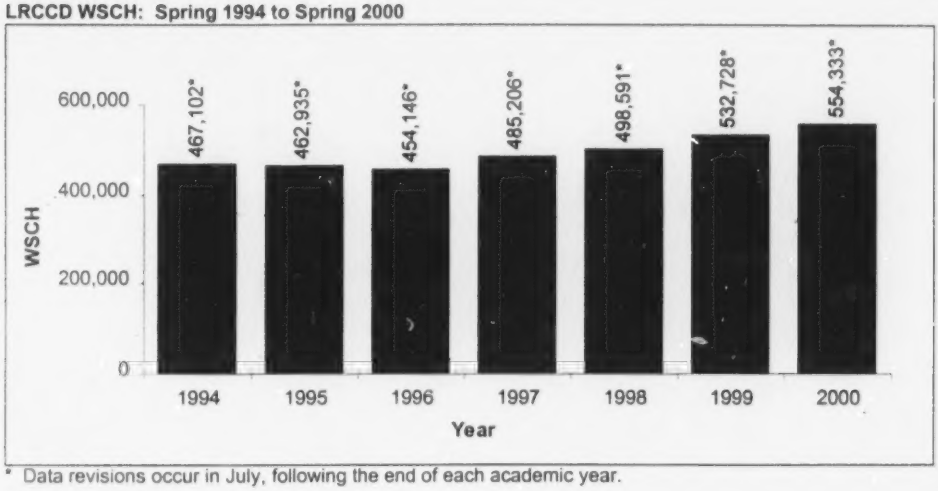
District Weekly Student Contact Hours

Similar to District enrollment in Spring 2000, Weekly Student Contact Hours (WSCH) increased by 4.1%. As indicated by Chart 2, this is the fourth annual increase in WSCH at Los Rios colleges. The recent pattern of increasing WSCH at LRCCD is a reflection of an average student who continues to enroll in slightly higher unit loads.

Chart 2
LRCCD WSCH: Spring 1994 to Spring 2000



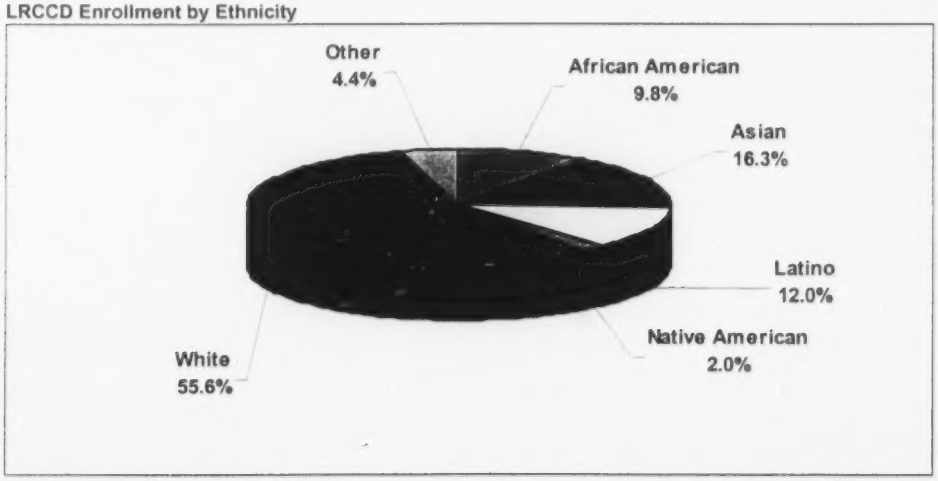
* Data revisions occur in July, following the end of each academic year.

WSCH increased by slightly higher rates than was comparable enrollment growth at both ARC and CRC. WSCH increased at SCC as well, but by a slightly lower rate than comparable enrollment in Spring 2000. Folsom Lake and El Dorado Centers' WSCH increased by 13.8% compared to a 13.6% increase in student enrollment in Spring 2000. Historically WSCH at the centers has increased by lower rates than comparable enrollment, but this years change indicates that not only is the Folsom Lake and El Dorado Centers' enrollment on the increase so are the unit course loads the students are carrying.

District Enrollment by Ethnicity

Chart 3 depicts the District's ethnic composition in Spring 2000. The Spring 2000 distribution of ethnic minority students at Los Rios is 40.1%, generally mirroring the Spring 1999 pattern and only increasing slightly from the 39.2% in Spring 1996.

Chart 3
LRCCD Enrollment by Ethnicity



Asian students continue to be the largest minority group enrolled at Los Rios colleges. The 16.3% of Asians enrolled in Spring 2000 has remained fairly stable over the past five years. The remaining ethnic composition of the District's Spring 2000 enrollment is as follows: Latino's, 12.0%; African Americans 9.8%; Native Americans, 2.0; and the remaining other 4.4% include students from various other ethnic minority groups and those students who declined to state their ethnicity. The proportion of white student enrollment at Los Rios declined slightly, from 57.3% in Spring 1996 to 55.6% in Spring 2000.

The 40.1% enrollment of ethnic minority students in Spring 2000 is substantially higher than the proportions of ethnic minority population living in the surrounding Sacramento-Yolo Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA) served by the Los Rios colleges. The July 1997 CMSA data reports 29.6% of Sacramento's area population are members of a minority group.

There are some noteworthy differences in Spring 2000 enrollment based on ethnicity at the college level. CRC (without students from the centers) enrolls higher proportions of Asians (25.3%), African Americans (15.0%) and Latinos (13.1%) when compared to District enrollment proportions. SCC also enrolls higher proportions of Asians (24.0%), Latinos (15.7%) and African Americans (12.3%) than district-wide enrollment. It is interesting to note that student enrollment specific to CRC illustrates a higher proportion of Asian students than does SCC, which has traditionally been viewed as having the highest proportion of Asian students across the district. However, SCC continues to enroll the highest *number* of Asian students district-wide. Of the total 9,059 Spring 2000 Asian students enrolled throughout the district, almost half (49.5% or 4,482) are enrolled at SCC, while 2,362 (26.1%) are enrolled at CRC and 2,293 (25.3%) of all Asian students are enrolled at ARC.

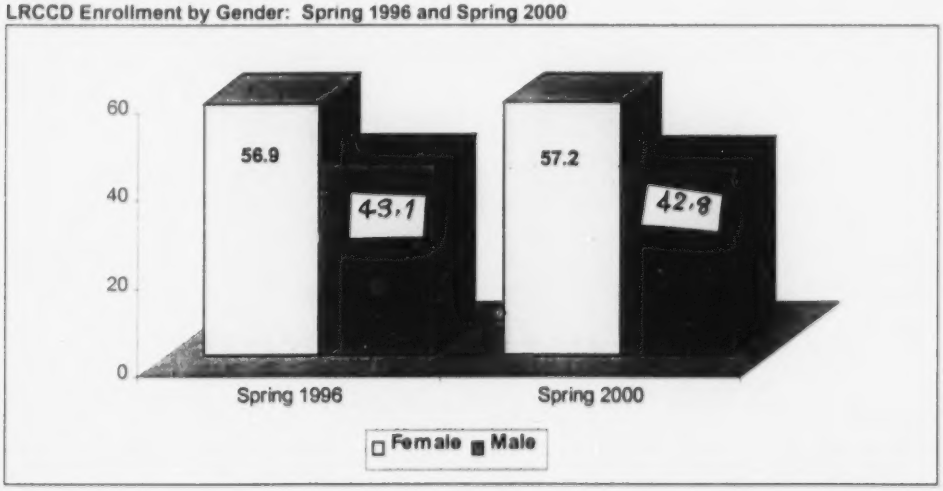
ARC enrollment based on ethnicity shows a lower proportion in each of the ethnic categories except Native Americans (noting the small numbers) and a higher proportion of white student (64.8%) enrollment. Of additional interest is the continuing subtle shift in ARC enrollment proportions based on ethnicity when comparing Spring 1996 to Spring 2000, as there were slight enrollment increases of both African American and Latino students, while Native American student enrollment remained virtually unchanged. Simultaneously, the proportion of white student enrollment at ARC decreased by 3.9% during this same period of time.

Analysis of the Folsom Lake and El Dorado Centers' Spring 2000 ethnicity profile results in a much different enrollment pattern. Most noteworthy is the substantially higher proportion of white students enrolled at both the Folsom Lake and El Dorado Centers, 77.4% and 84.7%, respectively.

District Enrollment by Gender

Historically, there has been very little change in the proportions of men and women enrolled at Los Rios colleges, fluctuating less than 1% between Spring semesters. Chart 4 illustrates this fact, as there was virtually no change in district enrollment by gender from Spring 1996 to Spring 2000.

Chart 4
LRCCD Enrollment by Gender: Spring 1996 and Spring 2000



There are slight variations in the enrollment pattern by gender among the Los Rios colleges. ARC and CRC (without the centers) have slightly higher proportions of male students than the District overall. Sacramento City College enrolls male and female students in similar proportions to comparable District enrollment. Folsom Lake (62.1%) and El Dorado (64.9%) have substantially higher proportions of female student enrollment than the District for Spring 2000.

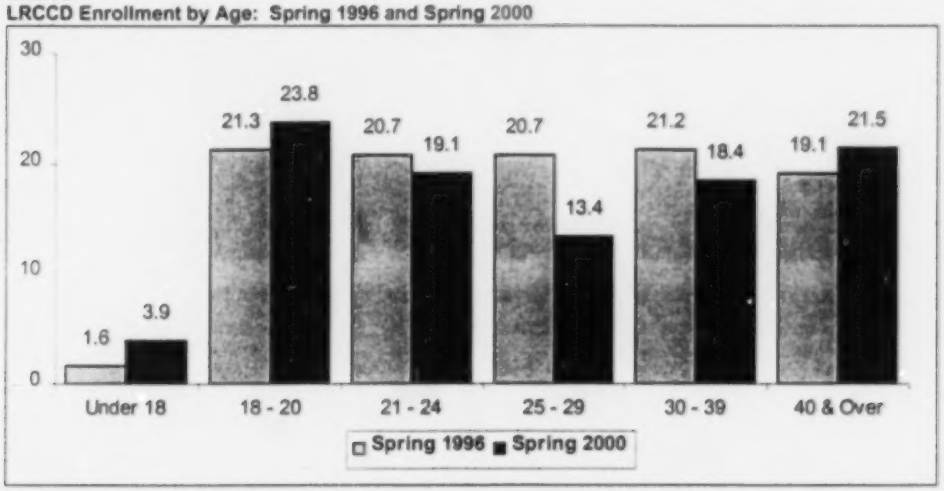
Spring 2000 enrollment by gender based on ethnicity illustrates differing enrollment patterns within several ethnic categories. District-wide African American enrollment by gender has a higher proportion of female students (60.8%) than males (39.2%). Although the proportion of African American enrollment by gender has remained relatively unchanged from Spring 1996 to Spring 2000, the number of African American females enrolled has increased by 23.9%, compared to an increase of 20.9% for all African American students and a 19.3% comparable enrollment increase for all Los Rios students.

The proportion of female African American students enrolled (as compared to male African American enrollment) is even higher at both CRC (63.9%, without center enrollment) and SCC (61.9%). In comparison, Asians enroll relatively similar proportions of females (53.3%) and male (46.7%) students across the district. Although Asians enroll in similar gender proportions, there was a 2.6% increase in the proportion of Asian female students enrolled in LRCCD since Spring 1996. The proportions of Latino enrollment by gender generally mirrors the district enrollment pattern while a slightly higher proportion of female Native American students (59.0%) enroll than do male Native American students district-wide (41.0%), noting the small number of Spring 2000 Native American students. White student enrollment by gender based on ethnicity at LRCCD generally reflects the proportion of enrollment by gender at the district level.

District Enrollment by Age Group

The proportion of students 20-and-under enrolled at Los Rios increased by 4.7%, from 22.9% of total enrollment in Spring 1996 to 27.6% in Spring 2000. Chart 5 illustrates that the enrollment of students in each of the age categories between 21-39 has declined from Spring 1996 to Spring 2000.

Chart 5
LRCCD Enrollment by Age: Spring 1996 and Spring 2000



In addition to the increase in the proportion of students enrolled that are 20-and-under, there continues to be an increase in the proportion of those students enrolled who are 40-and-over district-wide, increasing from 19.1% in Spring 1996 to 21.5% of total student enrollment in Spring 2000.

Generally, ARC and SCC enrollment proportions by age reflect district enrollment proportions for Spring 2000. However, ARC does have a slightly lower proportion of students enrolled who are 20-and-under (24.7%) compared to the district proportion (27.6%). SCC students 40-and-over enroll in smaller proportions than district-wide, 18.1% compared to 21.5% across the district.

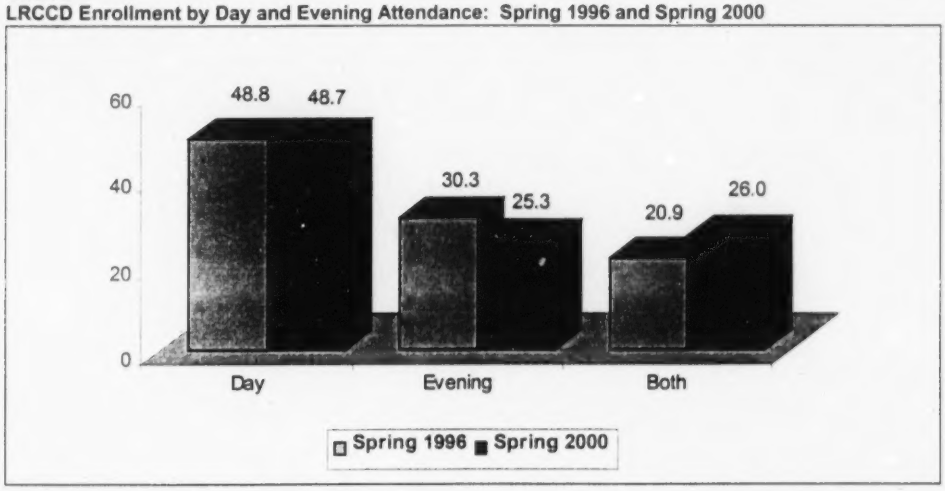
There have been small shifts in proportions of CRC enrollment (excluding the centers) in several age categories, of particular interest is those students under-18 comprised almost 5.0% of CRC Spring 2000 enrollment, while only 2.3% of total CRC enrollment in Spring 1996 . In addition, the *number* of students under-18 increased by 167% at CRC, from 171 students in Spring 1996 to 457 students in Spring 2000. As to be expected, analysis of enrollment status of Spring 2000 CRC students, illustrates a simultaneous increase in the proportions of Special Admit students, increasing from 1.6% of all CRC students enrolled in Spring 1996 to 5.3% in Spring 2000. The *number* of Special Admit students increased by 309%, from 122 in Spring 1996 to 499 Special Admit students in Spring 2000.

There are higher proportions of students under-18 (9.7%), students 30-39 (20.0%) and students 40-and-over (30.8%) enrolled at the Folsom Lake Center in Spring 2000 than district-wide. Likewise, the El Dorado Center enrolls high proportions of students under-18 (8.6%), students 18-20 (24.5%) as well as students 40-and-over (32.1%) than comparable district proportions. Of further interest is the increase in center enrollment of students under-20, by 8.7% at Folsom Lake Center and by 7.8% at El Dorado Center from Spring 1996 to Spring 2000. Noting the higher proportions of younger students, it is of importance to mention the increasing high school graduate population within El Dorado County, which feeds into the two centers. High school graduates from schools in the El Dorado County area increased by 30.6% from 1994 to 1998 and experienced an annual increase of 11.5% from 1997 to 1998 (1999 High School data are not yet available). The higher proportions of younger students at both the Folsom Lake and El Dorado Centers not only reflect the growth in the high school graduate population in the communities that surround these two centers, but also the ongoing high school recruitment efforts by staff at the two centers.

District Enrollment by Day and Evening Attendance

Chart 6 compares the District proportions of day and evening attendance for Spring 1996 and Spring 2000. Figures indicate that students attending day courses only remained relatively unchanged from Spring 1996 to Spring 2000. However, students attending courses offered during the evening only decreased by 5.0%, from 30.3% in Spring 1996 to 25.3% in Spring 2000.

Chart 6
LRCCD Enrollment by Day and Evening Attendance: Spring 1996 and Spring 2000



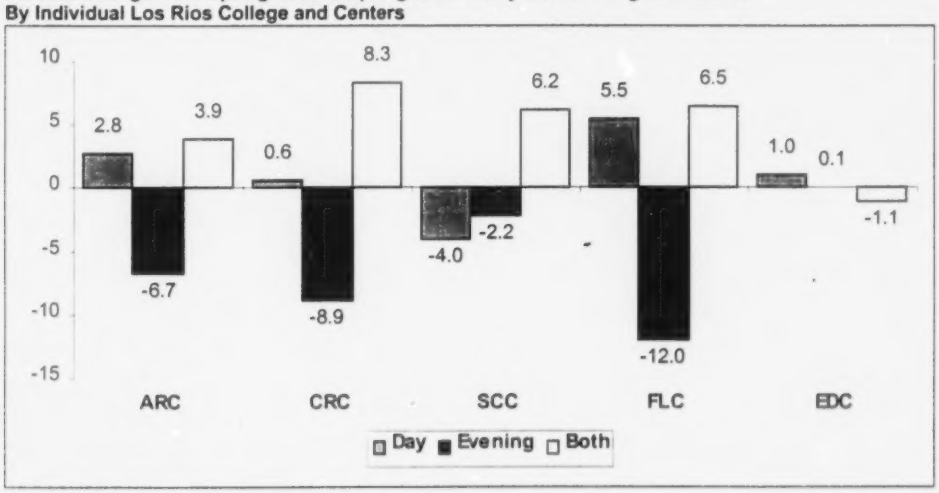
Los Rios students attending courses offered during *both* day and evening increased by 5.1%, from 20.9% in Spring 1996 to 26.0% in Spring 2000.

ARC (52.0%) and SCC (50.3%) have similar proportions of day only students, while CRC (43.3%) has a slightly lower proportion of day only students. Each of the three colleges have similar proportions of students attending courses in the evening only in Spring 2000. The proportion of students taking *both* day and evening courses at CRC (32.8%) is higher than the comparable district enrollment (26.0%) for Spring 2000. SCC (27.6%) has slightly higher proportions of students attending *both* day and evening courses while ARC (24.5%) has a lower proportion of students attending *both* day and evening courses than the district overall.

Student enrollment by day and evening attendance at the Folsom Lake and El Dorado Centers is much different than that of the Los Rios colleges and district overall. Enrollment proportions by day and evening attendance are fairly evenly distributed between day only, evening only and *both* day and evening courses. However Chart 7 illustrates the percent change in attendance patterns of Los Rios students over the five-year period from Spring 1996 to Spring 2000. Of particular interest is the 12.0% decrease in the proportion of Folsom Lake Center students attending courses offered during the evening only while attendance patterns at the El Dorado center remained relatively unchanged during this time.

Chart 7 also demonstrates students attending courses offered during the day only increased at ARC (by 2.8%), at Folsom Lake Center (by 5.5%) and slightly at both CRC (by 0.6%) and El Dorado Center (by 1.0%) in Spring 2000 as compared to attendance patterns in Spring 1996. The proportion of students attending day only courses declined however at SCC, by 4.0% over this five-year period. The proportion of students attending courses offered during the evening only declined at each of the three Los Rios colleges also; by 6.7% at ARC; by 8.9% at CRC, by 2.2% at SCC.

Chart 7
Percent Change from Spring 1996 to Spring 2000 in Day and Evening Attendance
By Individual Los Rios College and Centers

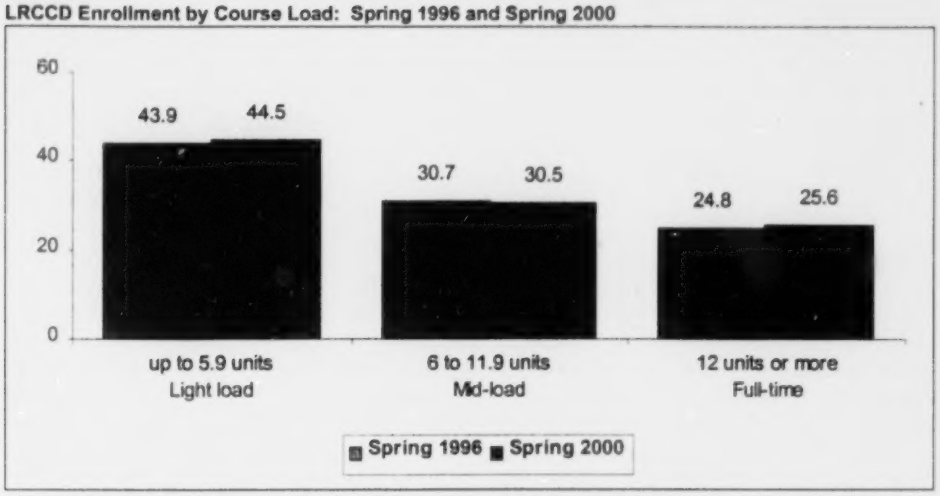


The proportion of students attending courses offered *both* during the day and evening increased at ARC (by 3.9%), at CRC (by 8.3%), at SCC (by 6.2%) and at Folsom Lake Center (by 6.5%). Students attending both day and evening courses at El Dorado Center decreased slightly by 1.1% from Spring 1996 to Spring 2000.

Unit Load by District Students

Three categories of unit-load are illustrated in Chart 8 to demonstrate trends in students' course loads in Spring 1996 compared to Spring 2000. "Light-load" students are those taking fewer than six units; "mid-load" students are those taking six to 11.9 units; and "full-time" students are those with 12 or more units. Analysis of Chart 8 shows that there was very little change in unit-loads of Los Rios students across the district from Spring 1996 to Spring 2000.

Chart 8
LRCCD Enrollment by Course Load: Spring 1996 and Spring 2000



Each of the three colleges have similar proportions of light, mid and full-time student enrollment and these proportions generally reflect the district overall. Additionally, there was very little change among the three colleges in the proportional distribution of enrollment by unit load. It remains clear that all of the colleges are still predominantly part-time institutions.

Of interest is the distinct enrollment pattern by unit load at both the Folsom Lake and El Dorado Centers. As would be expected due to facilities limitations, enrollment proportions of students who take light class loads are substantially higher. The proportion of students who take light-loads at Folsom Lake Center increased by 2.7%, from 58.7% in Spring 1996 to 61.4% in Spring 2000. Likewise, the proportion of students who take light loads at El Dorado Center increased by 4.0%, from 51.0% in Spring 1996 to 55.0% in Spring 2000. In addition to facilities issues, this may be partially attributed to the increase in enrollment of students under-18 as well as higher enrollment of students 40-and-over, both groups who tend to take lighter course loads.

Enrollment Status of District Students

As might be expected during the Spring semester, continuing students at LRCCD represent the largest proportion of student enrollment, which remained relatively unchanged from Spring 1996 (61.0%) to Spring 2000 (61.9%). Each of the other enrollment categories also remained stable over the five-year period.

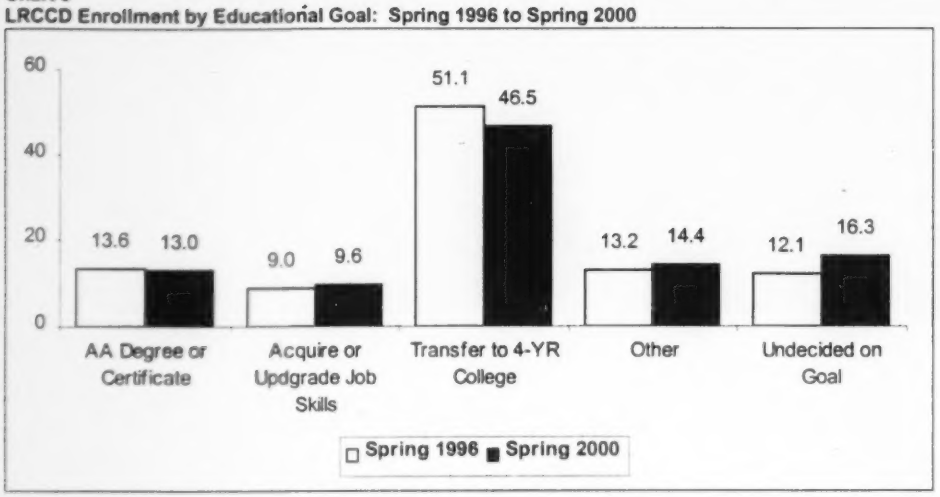
There was, however, an increase in the proportion of students who are Special Admits, students who are concurrently enrolled in high school and college. From Spring 1996 to Spring 2000 the proportion of Special Admits increased from 1.0% of total enrollment to 4.6% district-wide. CRC, in particular, experienced an increase (by 3.7%) in Special Admit students, from 1.6% in Spring 1996 to 5.3% of Spring 2000 enrollment.

While a smaller proportion of students at the Folsom Lake (47.4%) and El Dorado (48.1%) Centers are continuing students a higher proportion of students are Special Admit students, 14.0% at Folsom Lake Center and 11.9% at El Dorado Center, than is the case district-wide.

District Enrollment by Educational Goal

In an effort to better understand the goals of our students, Chart 9 depicts the educational goals of Los Rios students for Spring 1996 and Spring 2000. The proportion of students with the goal of obtaining an Associate's Degree or Certificate has remained relatively unchanged, decreasing by a slight 0.6%, from 13.6% in Spring 1996 to 13.0% in Spring 2000. Although a high proportion of Los Rios students (46.5%) have a goal of transferring to a four-year institution, of particular interest is the 4.6% decline in the proportion of students with a goal to transfer from Spring 1996 to Spring 2000. The proportion of students who are undecided on their educational goals increased by 4.2% during this same time period.

Chart 9
LRCCD Enrollment by Educational Goal: Spring 1996 to Spring 2000



Considering the profile of students at the Folsom Lake and El Dorado Centers, despite facilities limitations, it is interesting to note that the goals of these students are not all that much different than those of Los Rios students district-wide. Although the proportions are slightly lower (38.6% at Folsom Lake Center and 38.4% at El Dorado Center) than the District's 46.5%, the highest proportion of students at the centers have the same goals as students throughout the district, which is to transfer to a four-year institution with or without an Associate's Degree. Similar to the District, the proportion of students with goals to transfer declined, by 4.9% at Folsom Lake Center and by 3.6% at El Dorado Center from Spring 1996 to Spring 2000.

Proportions of students enrolled at Folsom Lake and El Dorado Centers who are interested in educational goals other than to transfer or obtain a degree or certificate are higher than comparable district proportions and have increased from Spring 1996 to Spring 2000; 18.4% at Folsom Lake Center (a 4.5% increase) and 22.3% at El Dorado Center (a 3.3% increase).

Summary Remarks

The data presented in the Spring 2000 Profile illustrate the overall growth of Los Rios Community College District's enrollment as well as changing demographic trends. Enrollment increased annually beginning in Spring 1997 and continued through Spring 2000, increasing by 3.4% annually from Spring 1996. Spring 2000 WSCH increased as well, but by a slightly higher 4.1%. This is the fourth consecutive annual increase in WSCH at Los Rios colleges, however the increase is not as high as the annual 6.8% increase in Spring 1999.

Long term demographic trends remained relatively stable in Spring 2000. The proportion of ethnic minority students increased only slightly from Spring 1996 to Spring 2000 and enrollment by gender experienced virtually no change. The trend of an older student body at Los Rios continues with 21.5% of all students enrolled who are 40-and-over. There is, however, an increase in the number of very young students as well. Comparison of Spring 1996 to Spring 2000 enrollment by age indicates a 4.7% increase of students enrolled who are 20-and-under district-wide. The increase in younger students is most apparent at CRC (increasing by 4.5% excluding centers' enrollment), Folsom Lake Center (increasing by 8.7%) and at El Dorado Center (increasing by 7.8%). The increase in younger student enrollment coincides with an increase in Special Admit enrollment at CRC and the Folsom Lake and El Dorado Centers.

Students attending courses during the day only remained relatively unchanged in Spring 2000 while students attending courses offered during the evening only decreased by 5.0% from Spring 1996 to Spring 2000. Students attending courses offered during *both* day and evening increased by 5.1% over this five-year time period. Each of the three colleges have similar proportions of light, mid and full-time student enrollment and there was very little change in the proportion of enrollment by unit load among the three colleges. However, it remains clear that all of the colleges are still predominantly part-time institutions.

Continuing students at LRCCD represent the largest proportion (61.9%) of student enrollment. The proportions of continuing students as well as the other categories of enrollment by student status remained stable over the five-year period. The exception to this is the increase in enrollments of Special Admit students in particular occurring at CRC, Folsom Lake and El Dorado Centers.

The ability to evaluate enrollment and demographic information for Folsom Lake and El Dorado Centers is vital to the planning processes needed to meet the needs of the unique student populations enrolled there. Although there are similarities with the district, there are some noteworthy differences in the student profiles of these two centers. Folsom Lake and El Dorado have a higher proportion of female students, a substantially higher proportion of white students, of students under-18 and of those students 40-and-over compared to student enrollment district-wide.

Of particular interest is the 12.0% decrease in the proportion of Folsom Lake Center students attending courses offered during the evening only while attendance patterns at the El Dorado Center remained relatively unchanged during this time. While the proportion of Folsom Lake Center students attending evening only courses decreased the proportion of students taking courses during the day only and courses offered during *both* day and evening increased from Spring 1996 and Spring 2000, by 5.5% and 6.5%, respectively.

Separate analysis of Folsom Lake and El Dorado Center allows us the ability to evaluate the enrollment patterns specific to students at the CRC campus. One of the most noteworthy findings is that the CRC ethnic population looks more like that of SCC than like that district overall. In fact, CRC enrolls a higher proportion of both Asian and African American students than does SCC and the district overall. However, SCC still enrolls the greatest number of Asian students district-wide, out of the total 9,059 Asian students enrolled district-wide 4,482, almost half, are enrolled at Sacramento City College.

As would be expected with normal enrollment transitions from Fall to Spring semesters, there was a district-wide increase in Continuing students while enrollment of students considered new (never before enrolled, new or returning transfer and returning after an absence) declined from Fall 1999 to Spring 2000. Of additional interest is the district-wide increase in the proportion of Spring 2000 students who took courses offered during *both* the day and evening while students taking courses offered during the day only decreased when compared to Fall 1999 attendance patterns. At the college level the changes in the proportions of students' attendance patterns from Fall 1999 to Spring 2000 generally mirror that of the district. However, there was a decrease in students taking courses offered during *both* day and evening in Spring 2000 at Folsom Lake Center while students taking courses offered during the day only increased from Fall 1999 to Spring 2000. But what is uncertain is if the demonstrated changes in the course attendance patterns of Spring 2000 Los Rios students solely reflect the choice of our students or might also be a reflection of course availability.

The Spring 2000 Student Profile is based on unduplicate student demography generated from the Spring First Census reports that are issued for the fourth week of classes from the research database. Of continued interest to district stability, growth and shifting demographic trends is the increase in the number of duplicate students, those students attending more than one Los Rios college. The number of duplicate enrollees increased from approximately 992 in Spring 1996 to 1,480 in Spring 2000, a 49.2% increase. This suggests that the mobility of our students and their willingness to travel to take the courses they need is expanding. However, there was only a slight 1.6% increase in the number of duplicate students from Spring 1999 to Spring 2000 which could be an indication that the increasing numbers of duplicate students may be starting to level off.

One of the strengths of the expanded Spring Profiles is the stronger capability to report those areas of demographic stability as well as shifts, both important tools in the Los Rios Community College District's ongoing efforts to meet the diverse needs of our current and future student populations.

This report was written by Betty Glyer-Culver, Research Analyst, and is based on data generated from the LRCCD Research Database, developed and managed by Minh La, Senior Systems Analyst.

For further information please call (916) 568-3131 or email loc@mail.do.losrios.cc.ca.us, LRCCD Office of Institutional Research (IR).

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